

XII.

THE
CHARTER OF LIBERTIES

GRANTED
TO PATROONS AND COLONISTS,

A. D. 1629,

AND
MISCELLANEOUS EXTRACTS,

TRANSLATED FROM
The Dutch Colonial Records, &c.

CHARTER OF LIBERTIES.

*Charter of Liberties and Exemptions of 1629.**

Privileges and Exemptions for the patroons, masters, or private individuals who shall settle any colony or bring cattle therein, in New Netherlands, considered for the service of the General West India Company in New Netherlands, and for the advantage of the patroons, masters, and private individuals.†

I. THAT such members of the said company, as may be inclined to settle any colony in New Netherland, shall be permitted with the ships of this company going thither to send three or four persons to examine the situation of the country, provided, that they with the officers and ship's company swear to the instrument of conditions (*articles*) so far as they relate to them; and paying for provisions, and for passage, going and coming, six stuyvers per day: and such as desire to eat in the cabin, twelve stuyvers, and to be subordinate, and to give assistance like others, in cases offensive and defensive: and if any ships be taken from the enemy, they shall *pro rata* receive their proportions with the ship's company, each according to his quality; that is to say, that the colonists eating out of the cabin shall be rated with the sailors, and such as eat in the cabin with those of the company's men that eat at table, and receive the lowest wages.

II. Yet in this respect such persons shall be preferred

* Rensselaerwyck MSS. Translated by Abraham Lott, jr. 1762, First published in Moulton's Hist. New-York. 1826.

† The charter was published at Amsterdam the next year, with the following title prefixed:—

Vryheiden by de Vergaderinghe van de Negenthien van de Geoctroyeerde West-Indische Compagnie vergunt aen allen den ghenen, die eepighe Colonien in Nieuw-Nederlandt sullen planten. In het licht ghegheven, &c. T' Amstelredam, door Marten Jantz Brandt, &c. Anno 1630.

Liberties or Privileges, granted by the Assembly of Nineteen of the authorized West India Company, to all such as shall or may settle or plant any colony in New-Netherlands. Published with a view to make known what profits and advantages result to colonists and their patroons and masters, as also to others who settle colonies in New Netherlands.—Moulton. 389.

who have first appeared and desired the same from the company.

III. That all such shall be acknowledged patroons of New-Netherland, who shall, within the space of four years next after they have given notice to any of the chambers, (or colleges,) of the company here, or to the commander or council there, undertake to plant a colony there of fifty souls, upwards of fifteen years old, one fourth part within one year, and within three years after the sending of the first, making together four years, the remainder to the full number of fifty persons, to be shipped from hence, on pain in case of wilful neglect of being deprived of the privileges obtained; but it is to be observed that the company reserve the island of the Manhattes to themselves.

IV. That from the time that they make known the situation of the places where they propose to settle colonies, they shall have the preference to all others of the absolute property of such lands as they have there chosen; but in case the situation should afterwards not please them, or that they should have been mistaken as to the quality of the land, they may, after stating the same to the commander and council there, be at liberty to choose another place.

V. That the patroons, by virtue of their power, shall and may be permitted, at such places as they shall settle their colonies, to extend their limits four miles* along the shore, that is on one side of a navigable river, or two miles on each side of a river, and so far into the country as the situation of the occupiers will permit. Provided and conditioned, that the company keep to themselves the lands lying and remaining between the limits of colonies, to dispose thereof, when, and at such time as they shall think proper, in such manner that no person shall be allowed to come within seven or eight miles of them without their consent; unless the situation of the land thereabout were such, that the commander and council for good reasons should order otherwise; always observing that the first occupiers are not to be prejudiced in the right they have obtained, other than unless the service of the company should require it for the building of fortifications, or something of that sort; retaining, moreover, the command of each bay, river, or island, of the first settled colony, under the supreme jurisdiction of their High Mightinesses the Staats General and the Company: but that on the next colony's being settled on the same river or island, they may, in conjunction with the first, appoint one or more councillors, in order to consider what may be necessary for the prosperity of the colonies on the said river and island.

* Twelve English miles.

VI. That they shall for ever possess and enjoy all the lands lying within the aforesaid limits, together with the fruits, rights, minerals, rivers, and fountains thereof; as also the chief command, and lower jurisdictions, fishing, fowling, and grinding, to the exclusion of all others, to be holden from the company as an eternal heritage, without its ever devolving again to the company, and in case it should devolve, to be redeemed and repossessed, with twenty guilders* per colony to be paid to this company, at their chamber here, or to their commander there, within a year and six weeks after the same happens; each at the chamber where he originally sailed from. [And further, that no person or persons whatsoever shall be privileged to fish and hunt, but the patroons, and such as they shall give liberty]: and in case any one should in time prosper so much, as to found one or more cities, he shall have power and authority to establish officers and magistrates there, and to make use of the title of his colony according to his pleasure and to the quality of the persons.

VII. That there shall likewise be granted to all patroons who shall desire the same, *venia testandi*, or liberty to dispose of their aforesaid heritage by testament.

VIII. That the patroons may, if they think proper, make use of all lands, rivers, and woods, lying contiguous to them, for and during so long time as this company shall not grant them to other patroons or individuals.

IX. That those who shall send persons over to settle colonies, shall furnish them with proper instructions, in order that they may be ruled and governed conformably to the rule of government made, or to be made by the assembly of nineteen, as well in the political as judicial government; which they shall be obliged first to lay before the directors of the respective colleges.

X. That the patroons and colonists shall be privileged to send their people and effects thither, in ships belonging to the company, provided they take the oath and pay to the company for bringing over the people, as mentioned in the first article; and for freight of the goods five per cent. ready money, to be reckoned on the prime cost of the goods here: in which are, however, not to be included, such creatures and other implements as are necessary for the cultivation and improvement of the lands, which the company are to carry over without any reward, if there is room in their ships. But the patroons shall, at their own expense, provide and make places for them, together with every thing necessary for the support of the creatures.

XI. That in case it should not suit the company to send any

* A guilder was twenty stivers, or about forty cents.

ships, or that in those going there should be no room ; then the said patroons, after having communicated their intentions, and after having obtained consent from the company in writing, may send their own ships or vessels thither ; provided, that in going and coming they go not out of their ordinary course ; giving security to the company for the same, and taking on board an assistant, to be victualled by the patroons and paid his monthly wages by the company ; on pain by doing the contrary of forfeiting all the right and property they have obtained to the colony.

XII. That as it is the intention of the company to people the island of the Manhattes first, all fruits and wares shall for the present, be brought there, that arise upon the North river, and lands lying thereabouts, before they may be sent elsewhere : excepting such as are from their nature unnecessary there, or such as cannot, without great loss to the owner thereof, be brought there. In which case the owners thereof shall be obliged to give timely notice in writing of the difficulty attending the same to the company here, or the commander and council there, that the same may be remedied as the necessity thereof shall be found to require.

XIII. That all the patroons of colonies in New-Netherlands and of colonies on the island of Manhattes, shall be at liberty to sail and traffic all along the coast, from Florida to Terre Neuf, provided, that they do again return with all such goods as they shall get in trade to the island of Manhattes, and pay five per cent. for recognition to the company, in order, if possible, that after the necessary inventory of the goods shipped be taken, the same may be sent hither. And if it should so happen that they could not return, by contrary streams or otherwise, they shall in such case not be permitted to bring such goods to any other place but to these dominions, in order that under the inspection of the directors of the place where they may arrive, they may be unladen, an inventory thereof made, and the aforesaid recognition of five per cent. paid to the company here, on pain, if they do the contrary, of the forfeiture of their goods so trafficked for, or the real value thereof.

XIV. That in case of the ships of the patroons, in going to, coming from, or sailing on the coast, from Florida to Terre Neuf, and no farther, without our grant should overpower any of the princes of the enemy, they shall be obliged to bring, or cause to be brought, such prince to the college of the place from whence they sailed out, in order to be rewarded by them : the company shall keep the one third part thereof, and the remaining two thirds shall belong to them, in consideration of the cost and risk they have been at, all according to the orders of the company.

XV. That it shall also be free for the aforesaid patroons to traffic and trade all along the coast of New-Netherlands and places circumjacent, with such goods as are consumed there, and receive in return for them all sorts of merchandize that may be had there, except beavers, otters, minks, and all sorts of peltry, which trade the company reserve to themselves. But the same shall be permitted at such places where the company have no factories, conditioned that such traders shall be obliged to bring all the peltry they can procure to the island of Manhattes, in case it be at any rate practicable, and there deliver to the director, to be by him shipped hither, with the ships and goods ; or if they should come here, without going there, then to give notice thereof to the company, that a proper account thereof may be taken, in order that they may pay to the company, one guilder for each merchantable otter and beaver skin ; the property, risk, and all other charges, remaining on account of the patroons or owners.

XVI. That all coarse wares that the colonists of the patroons there shall consume, such as pitch, tar, weed-ashes, wood, grain, fish, salt, hearthstone, and such like things, shall be brought over in the company's ships at the rate of eighteen guilders per last, four thousand weight to be accounted a last, and the company's ship's crew shall be obliged to wheel, and bring the salt on board, whereof ten lasts make a hundred. And in case of the want of ships, or room in the ships, they may in ships of their own order it over at their own cost, and enjoy in these dominions, such liberties and benefits as the company have granted ; but that in either case they shall be obliged to pay, over and above the recognition of five per cent., eighteen guilders for each hundred of salt that is carried over in the company's ships.

XVII. That for all wares which are not mentioned in the foregoing article, and which are not carried by the last, there shall be paid one dollar for each hundred pounds' weight, and for wines, brandy, verjuice, and vinegar, there shall be paid eighteen guilders per cask.

XVIII. That the company promises the colonists of the patroons that they shall be free from customs, taxes, excise, imposts, or any other contributions, for the space of ten years ; and after the expiration of the said ten years, at the highest, with such customs as the goods are taxable with here for the present.

XIX. That they will not take from the service of the patroons any of their colonists, either man or woman, son or daughter, man-servant or maid-servant ; and though any of them should desire the same, that they will not receive them, much

less permit them to leave their patroons, and enter into the service of another, unless on consent obtained from their patroons in writing. And this for and during so many years as they are bound to their patroons ; after the expiration whereof, it shall be in the power of the patroons to send hither all such colonists as will not continue in their service, and until then shall not enjoy their liberty. And all such colonists as shall leave the service of his patroon, and enter into the service of another, or shall contrary to his contract leave his service, we promise to do everything in our power to apprehend and deliver the same into the hands of his patroon, or attorney, that he may be proceeded against, according to the customs of this country, as occasion may require.

XX. That from all judgments given by the courts of the patroons for upwards of fifty guilders,* there may be an appeal to the company's commander and council in New-Netherlands.

XXI. That touching such particular persons, who, on their own accounts, or others in the service of their masters here, (not enjoying the same privileges as the patroons) shall be minded to go thither and settle ; they shall, with the approbation of the director and council there, be at liberty to take up as much land, and take possession thereof, as they shall have ability properly to improve, and shall enjoy the same in full property either for themselves or masters.

XXII. That they shall have free liberty of hunting and fowling, as well by water as by land, generally and in public and private woods and rivers, about their colonies, according to the orders of the director and council.

XXIII. That whosoever, whether colonists or patroons, for their patroons, or free persons for themselves, or other individuals for their masters, shall discover any shores, bays, or other fit places for erecting fisheries, or the making of salt ponds, they may take possession thereof, and begin to work on them in their own absolute property, to the exclusion of all others.. And it is consented to, that the patroons of colonists may send ships along the coast of New-Netherlands, on the cod fishery, and with the fish they catch to trade to Italy, or other neutral countries ; paying in such case to the company for recognition six guilders per last : and if they should come with their lading hither, they shall be at liberty to proceed to Italy, though they shall not, under pretext of this consent, or from the company, carry any goods there, on pain of arbitrary punishment : and it remaining in the breast of the company to put a supercargo on board of each ship as in the eleventh article.

XXIV. That in case any of the colonists should by his in-

dustry and diligence, discover any minerals, precious stones, chrystals, marbles, or such like, or any pearl fishery, the same shall be and remain the property of the patroon or patroons of such colony; giving and ordering the discoverer such premium as the patroon shall beforehand have stipulated with such colonists by contract. And the patroons shall be exempt from all recognition to the company for the term of eight years, and pay only for freight to bring them over, two per cent., and after the expiration of the aforesaid eight years, for recognition and freight the one eighth part of what the same may be worth here.

XXV. That the company will take all the colonists as well free as those that are in service, under their protection, and the same against all outlandish and inland wars and powers, with the forces they have there, as much as in their power lyeth to defend.

XXVI. That whoever shall settle any colony out of the limits of the Manhattes Island, shall be obliged to satisfy the Indians for the land they shall settle upon, and that they may extend or enlarge the limits of their colonies if they settle a proportionate number of colonists thereon.

XXVII. That the patroons and colonists shall in particular, and in the speediest manner, endeavour to find out ways and means whereby they may support a minister and schoolmaster, that thus the service of God and zeal for religion may not grow cool, and be neglected among them; and that they do, for the first, procure a comforter of the sick there.

XXVIII. That the colonies that shall happen to lie on the respective rivers or islands (that is to say, each river or island for itself,) shall be at liberty to appoint a deputy, who shall give information to the commander and council of that western quarter, of all things relating to his colony, and who are to further matters relating thereto, of which deputies there shall be one altered or changed, in every two years; and all colonies shall be obliged, at least once in every twelve months, to make exact report of their colony and lands thereabout, to the commander and council there in order to be transmitted hither.

XXIX. That the colonists shall not be permitted to make any woollen, linen, or cotton cloth, nor weave any other stuffs there, on pain of being banished, and as perjurers to be arbitrarily punished.

XXX. That the company will use their endeavours to supply the colonists with as many blacks as they conveniently can, on the conditions hereafter to be made; in such manner, however, that they shall not be bound to do it for a longer time than they shall think proper.

XXXI. The company promises to finish the fort on the island of the Manhattes, and to put it in a posture of defence without delay; and to get these privileges and exemptions approved and confirmed by their High Mightinesses, the Lords States General.

Extracts from the Letters of the Directors of the West India Company, contained in the MS. Colonial Records.

Vol iv. p. 25. Your apprehensions in regard to the Rev. Backenus have been verified. He has made a common cause with the complainants who arrived here from your country.— These silly persons, at least the largest part of the petitioners, have been imposed upon by a few worthless persons, viz. Cornelis Melyn, Adrian van der Donck, and a few others, who, as it appears, will leave nothing untried to abjure every kind of subjection to government, under pretext that they groaned under a too galling yoke. In this frantic opinion they are confirmed by Wouter van Twiller, who aims to appoint himself as the only commander on the North river, and dares to declare in public that he does not intend to permit any one to navigate this river with a commercial view, and that he will repel with force every one who with that purpose should come there, or in Rensselaerwyck, asserting besides that Fort Orange was constructed on the soil of Rensselaerwyck, consequently that the Company has no right whatever to permit particular persons either to build a house, or exercise any trade, without considering that said Fort Orange, fifteen years before any mention of Rensselaerwyck exists, was constituted and actually garrisoned by the Company; that besides a house of commerce (trading house) was established in the fort, till the year 1644; so that the fur trade till our days was exclusively reserved to the Company, and ought to remain on the same footing whenever the Company shall be enabled to provide their magazines with sufficient store goods. Neither are we without hope to discover and employ the means as soon as the opportunity is offered, to exclude from this commerce these impertinent fellows; using this sovereign right with the best title to the confusion of this ungrateful individual, who, if we may so express it, has sucked his wealth from the breasts of the Company which he now abuses; upon which the merchants pretty generally transmitted to us the inclosed petitions, requesting to be maintained by us in their right to a free trade. Apprehending from warnings that Wouter van Twiller might again become so presumptuous as to obstruct once more by force the

navigation on the North river, and use violent means against the merchants, vilifying in this matter the right of jurisdiction in the Company; in such a case it is our express will that your Honours shall repel him, with prudence for your guide, by force of arms. If he should plant again some guns near the river, as he did before, your Honours will carry them off and keep them in your custody till you have received our further orders. He has requested us in behalf of Rensselaerwyck, to freight his own ship with 600 lb. powder and 600 lb. lead, which we fear he may abuse. It is our intention to provide you too with some powder and lead, not with the intention to offend any one with it, but only to maintain the rights of the Company, which in our opinion are in danger through the machinations of many. It is your duty to keep a watchful eye on the ship of this Wouter van Twiller, and in case any articles were discovered in it besides our general invoice, or freighted without the consent of the company, then you must take the whole into your possession, and institute a lawsuit upon it by the Attorney General conformably with the laws of the land.

Amsterdam, Feb. 16, 1650.

No more can we discover on what ground the colonists of Rensselaerwyck did occupy Bears Island, which they called *Rensselaer-stein*, which possession they have usurped in such a lofty way that they named this place "The place by right of arms," and compelled every one, exempting only the company's property, to pay a toll of 5 gl. &c. p. 46.

We do not know in what these persons do trust, but we are confident they will be disappointed, and more so yet, if said Van Twiller intends to monopolize the trade upon the North river, which we know to have been his aim a great while, with his toll on Bears Island, now called by them Rensselaer-stein; but we have no intention to permit this; every one shall navigate this river unmolested and enjoy a free trade at our Fort Orange which these colonists pretend to have constructed on their own territory. Who ever heard a more impertinent pretension!" p. 49.

21 March, 1651.

Answer to the petition of Adrian van der Donck, addressed by the Company to the Governor.

Vol. iv. p. 3. As Mr. Adrian van der Donck has petitioned our college, first, that as he has received his degree at law in the University of Leyden, and been admitted to practise it before the Supreme Court of Holland, he may be permitted to follow his

profession as advocate in New Netherlands. Secondly, that he may examine all the records and documents in the secretary's office to accomplish his history of New Netherlands, which he did undertake to write. So is our resolution upon these points: we consent and permit him that, in conformity with the rules and customs of this country, he may follow his profession as advocate in New Netherlands, to give his advice to all who may desire to obtain it; but as regards his pleading before the courts, we cannot see that it can be admitted yet with any advantage to the Directors and Council in New Netherlands. Besides that we are ignorant if there be any of that stamp in your city, (who nevertheless before they can be admitted must apply to your Honour, or directly to our Department,) who can act and plead against said Van der Donck in behalf of the other side. We trust that in this you will consult the interest of your government, and the welfare of the inhabitants."

24 July, 1653.

RENSSELAERWYCK.

At the request of Govert Lookermans, declared the undersigned witnesses, viz. Cors Peterson, about thirty-three years of age, Harmen Arentsen, from Bremen, thirty-five years old, Cornelius Mauntsen Bout, twenty-seven years old, Willem Petersen, twenty years old, Joannes Verbrugge, about twenty years old, Carman Douwes, about twenty-six years old, Harman Bastiansen, twenty-five years old, Jacob Jansen, twenty-three years old, and Elbert Hebers, twenty-four years old, who jointly and separately declared, which declaration they were willing to confirm by an oath whenever it is required, that it is true that Govert Lookermans with the witnesses sailed from Fort Orange in the yacht the Good Hope, and when they arrived near the Bears' Island on which Nicholas Koren resides in the name of the patroon Van Rensselaer, the said Nicholas Koren cried out to Govert Lookermans, when we were passing by, "*Lower thy colors!*" "*For whom should I do so?*" retorted Lookermans. Then Koren replied, "*For the staple-right of Rensselaerwyck.*" Then Govert Lookermans answered, "*I lower not my colors for any individual except the Prince of Orange and the Lords my Masters.*" Thereupon Nicholas Koren immediately fired a gun; the first shot went through the sail, broke the ropes and the ladder; a second shot passed over us, and the third, fired by a savage, perforated our princely colors about a foot above the head of Lookermans, who kept the colors constantly in his hand. But we continued our course notwithstanding this insulting assault without returning the fire, or making any other reprisal whatever, and gently descended

the river. All which we declare to pay our homage to the truth, without any malice or lurking wish to court the favour of any individual. Done before Fort Amsterdam in New Netherlands, 9 July 1644. (Signed by the above named deponents.)

In presence of CORNELIUS VAN TIENHOVEN, Secretary.

Appeared before me, Cornelius van Tienhoven, Secretary in New Netherlands, Isbrant Claesen, forty-four years old, and John Tomasen, about forty years old, who jointly and separately at the request of Nicolas Koorn, sheriff in Rensselaerwyck, declare, which declaration they are willing to confirm with a solemn oath, that it is true, that Govert Lookermans, when sailing down the river some time ago, came about Bears Island, when Nicolas Koorn fired a gun without ball as a warning. When Govert continued his course, Nicolas Koorn said "*Strike !*" Govert Lookermans replied, "*For whom shall I strike ?*" Nicolas Koorn answered, "*To pay homage to Rensselaerstein.*" Govert then exclaimed, "*I strike for nobody but the Prince, or those by whom I am employed.*" Then Nicolas ordered to fire behind the bark, when Govert Lookermans vociferated, "*Fire ye dogs, and the devil take you.*" Then the sheriff offered to fire once more, when the shot struck and perforated the sail. Done in Fort Amsterdam in New Netherlands, 7 October, 1644. Vol. iii. 219.

I, Cornelius Huyghens, Attorney General in New Netherlands, to Mr. Nicolas Koorn in behalf of Mr. Van Rensselaer in his colony.

Whereas I am informed with certainty, that it is your intention, and that you are qualified by your patroon, to establish yourself on Bears' Island, situated three miles* below Fort Orange with a body of men, to build there a fort, for which you have provided guns to defend it;—and whereas this is inconsistent with the privileges granted to patroons and lords of manors, since a colony may not be further extended than four miles along the coast, or two miles on both sides of the river, as is evident from Article 5th of the grant; and whereas said Bears' Island is more than two miles from the limits of the said colony—besides the bold attempt to construct there a fort which might command the river, and debar Fort Orange from the free navigation—all which would be ruinous to the interests of the Company: Therefore I desire to know what authority you have, and by whom you have been invested with it. If you do not directly comply with this demand, then I forbid you to construct any building whatever, much less any fortification out of

* Nine English miles. This island retains its original name.

the limits of the said colony of Rensselaerwyck; and if you notwithstanding this prohibition dare to proceed, then I protest against the damages which must be the consequence of such lawless transactions, which I shall prosecute against you, or any other persons whom it may concern.

I, Nicolas Koorn, commander in Rensselaer-stein,* in behalf of the Honorable Killian van Rensselaer, under the high allegiance of their High Mightinesses the States General of the United Netherlands and the privileged West India Company, first commander of the colony on the North river in New Netherlands, make it known to you, Cornelius van Huyghens, Attorney General of New Netherlands, as the vice-commander of the Hon. Van Rensselaer, that you will not presume to oppose and frustrate my designs on the Bears' Island, to defraud me in any manner or to cause me any trouble, as it has been the will of their High Mightinesses the States General and the privileged West India Company, to invest my patroon and his heir with the right to extend and fortify his colony, and make it powerful in every respect; wherefore you Cornelius Van Huyghens, Attorney General, will take care to avoid any attempt on these rights, and if you persist in doing so, I, Nicolas Koorn, protest against the act of violence and assault committed by the Hon. Lords Majors, which I leave them to settle between them and my Hon. patroon, while the undertaking has nothing else in view than to prevent the canker of freemen entering his colony.

The Attorney General persists in his interdiction, and renews his protest.

Done in Manhattans, 18 Nov. 1644, in New Netherlands.

CORNELIUS VAN DER HUYGHENS, Attorney General.

NICHOLAS KOORN,

DAVID PROVOST,

STOFFEL STEVENSON.

} Witnesses.

Vol. iii. 187.

AWARD OF REFEREES.

John Underhill and Isaac Allerton† are authorized by the Honorable Director and Council in New Netherlands, to settle the accounts between Mr. Moor and Mr. Wedderley to their

* *Stein* in Netherlands and Germany is used for *castle*. TRANS.

† Both of these persons were of some note in the annals of New England.—Allerton was originally settled at New Plymouth; he afterwards removed to New Amsterdam, but is supposed to have passed the latter part of his life at New Haven, where he died in 1659. *Morton's Memorial*—Ed. of Judge Davis. Appx. 393. *Mass. Hist. Coll. 3d Series*, vii. 243. *Memoir of Isaac Allerton*.—Underhill died at Oyster Bay, in 1672. See an interesting memoir of him in Thompson's valuable *History of Long Island*, p. 336.

best knowledge ; and having thoroughly and impartially examined said affair, *so it is*, that they declared that the half of the bark ought to remain the property of Mr. Moor, provided he delivers to Mr. Wedderley 250 lbs. tobacco, or its value, and leaving it further to Wedderley to settle with Ridder in Virginia. Whereas for the truth thereof, this act has been signed on 26 November, 1644, in Fort Amsterdam, in New Netherlands.

JOHN UNDERHILL,
ISAAC ALLERTON.*

CASTLE ISLAND.

Vol. xxiv. 167. Extract from the answer of Governor Stuyvesant to the application of the General Court of Massachusetts, soliciting a free passage for their vessels on the North river to Fort Orange, April 20, 1660.

"That this North river of New Netherlands was first discovered at the expense of the Netherlands in the year 1609, by Hendrick Hudson, skipper and merchant of the yacht Half-Moon, in the service of the East India Company ; upon the report of said Hudson, several merchants of Amsterdam sent in the following year, 1610, another ship up the North river, who obtained the next year a grant of their High and Mighty Lords, the States General, to sail upon that river and to navigate ; for whose security they built, in the year 1615, a small fort from which an island near Fort Orange yet bears the name of Castle Island, and the monuments of which can yet be shown ;—which small fort by high water and ice was three years after highly injured, so that at length it entirely decayed."

CONTRACT FOR THE BUILDING OF A CHURCH.

Vol. iii. 31. "Appeared before me, Cornelius Van Tienhoven, Secretary in behalf of the general privileged West India Company in New Netherlands, the Honorable William Kieft, church-warden, at the request of his brethren, the church-wardens of the church in New Netherlands, to transact and in their name to conclude the following business. So did he, as church-warden, agree with John Ogden about a church in the following manner, viz. :—

John Ogden of Stamford, and Ritsert Ogden, engage to build in behalf of said church-wardens a church of *rock-stone*, seventy-two feet long, fifty-two feet broad, and sixteen feet high above the soil, all in good order, and in a workman-like manner. They shall be obliged to procure the stone and bring it on shore

* Isaac Allerton was plaintiff in a suit before the Burgomasters' Court in fort Amsterdam, March 24, 1654.

near the fort at their own expense, from whence the church-wardens shall further convey the stone to the place where it is intended to build the church, at their own expense. The church wardens aforesaid will procure as much lime as shall be required for the building of the aforesaid church. John and Ritsert Ogden shall at their own charge pay for the masonry, &c., provided that when the work shall be finished the church wardens shall pay to them the sum of 2500 gl.,* which payment shall be made in beaver, cash, or merchandize, to wit:—if the church-wardens are satisfied with the work, so that in their judgment the 2500 gl. shall have been earned, then the said church-wardens shall reward them with 100 gl. more; and further promise to John Ogden and Ritsert Ogden to assist them whenever it is in their power. They further agree to facilitate the carrying the stone thither, and that John and Ritsert Ogden may use during a month or six weeks the Company's boat; engaging themselves and the aforesaid John and Ritsert Ogden to finish the undertaken work in the manner as they contracted. Done in Fort Amsterdam, in New Netherlands. (Signed) William Kieft, John Ogden, Richard Ogden, Gysbert op Dyck, Thomas Willett.†

EXTRACT FROM JOSSELYN'S VOYAGES.‡

“The whole country is divided into colonies, and for your better understanding, observe a colony is a sort of people that come to inhabit a place before not inhabited, or *colonus quasi*, because they should be tillers of the earth. From hence by a

* About one thousand dollars.

† There is no date legible in the original of this contract, which was signed by the parties in the book of Records. The date was probably inserted at the beginning, which is rendered partially illegible by the mouldering of the leaves; but as the other documents both immediately preceding and following this in the Records are of the date 1642, there can be no doubt that it was executed in that year; the church was commenced in 1643. This is the church mentioned by De Vries (see above p. 265). It stood within the walls of the Fort, and remained unaltered until 1691, when it was remodelled, and afterwards used for the service of the church of England. It was finally destroyed by fire in 1741. The Dutch congregation built a church on Garden street in 1691, to which they removed. Governor Stuyvesant erected a chapel near his country-house about 1660, on the present site of St. Mark's Church. The church in the Fort and the Governor's chapel were the only churches existing in the city prior to the one in Garden street, with the exception of the original place of worship that preceded the stone church, and which De Vries calls a ‘barn’ from the homeliness of its appearance. At what period the latter was erected is unknown. The first notice of it that we have seen is in the deposition respecting the public property taken in 1633, at the commencement of Kieft's administration. (See above p. 279).

‡ “An account of two Voyages to New England, &c. By John Josselyn. Gent. London, 1674.” Dedicated to “the Right Honorable and Most Illustrious the President and Fellows of the Royal Society.”

usual figure the country where they sit down is called a Colony or Plantation.

"The first of these that I shall relate of, though last in possession of the English, is now our most southerly colony, and next adjoining to Maryland, scil. the Manadaes or Manahanent, lying upon the great river Mohegan, which was first discovered by Mr. Hudson, and sold presently by him to the Dutch, without authority from his sovereign the king of England, anno 1608. The Dutch in 1614 began to plant there, and called it New Netherlands, but Sir Samuel Argal, governor of Virginia, routed them; the Dutch after this got leave of King James to put in there for fresh water in their passage to Brazil,* and did not offer to plant until a good while after the English were settled in the country. In anno 1664, his majesty Charles the Second sent over four worthy gentlemen commissioners to reduce the colonies into their bounds, who had before encroached upon one another, who marching with three hundred red-coats to Manadaes or Manhataes, took from the Dutch their chief town then called New Amsterdam, now New York; the twenty-ninth of August, turned out their governor with a silver leg, and all but those that were willing to acknowledge subjection to the king of England, suffering them to enjoy their houses and estates as before. Thirteen days after Sir Robert Carr took the fort and town of Aurania, now called Albany; and twelve days after that, the fort and town of Awsapha [Esopus]; then De-la-Ware Castle, manned with Dutch and Swedes. So now the English are masters of three handsome towns, three strong forts and a castle, not losing one man. The first governor of these parts for the king of England was Colonel Nicols, a noble gentleman, and one of his majesty's commissioners, who coming for England in *anno Domini* 1668, as I take it, surrendered the government to Colonel Lovelace.

"New York is situated at the mouth of the great river Mohegan, and is built with Dutch brick *alla-moderna*, the meanest house therein being valued at one hundred pounds; to the landward it is compassed with a wall of good thickness. At the entrance of the river is an island well fortified, and hath command of any ship that shall attempt to pass without leave." pp. 152—154.

* The same story is told in Thurloe's *State Papers*, that the Dutch "by the permission of King James had granted from him to their States only a certain island, called therefore by them *States Island* [Staten Island], as a watering place for their West India fleets; although as they have encroached upon, so they have given it a new Dutch name, * * * wiping out the old English names in those parts of America in their old sea charts, and have new *Dutchified* them." See the document at length in Hazard's *State Papers*, i. 604—5. This story of a 'watering place' is as probable as that of the sale by Hudson; both equally unsustained by the history of the country.

TABLES OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

The following statistical tables are taken from De Laet's *History of the West India Company*. That work has not been translated, but from an examination of its index it appears to contain nothing else of interest relating to the colony of New Netherlands.

EXPORTS,

From New Netherlands by the West India Company, from A. D. 1624 to 1632.

Date.	Beavers.	Otters, &c.	Guilders.
1624	4,000	700	27,125
1625	5,295	463	35,825
1626	7,258	857	45,050
1627	7,520	370	12,730
1628	6,951	734	61,075
1629	5,913	681	62,185
1630	6,041	1,085	68,012
1632	13,513	1,661	143,125
1633	8,800	1,383	91,375
1635	14,891	1,413	134,925

IMPORTS.

		Guilders.
1624	In two ships, goods, wares, &c.	25,569
1625	Several ships, "	8,772
1626	Two ships, "	20,384
1627	Four ships, "	56,170
1628	no imports	
1629	Three ships, "	55,778
1630	Two ships, "	57,499
1631	One ship, "	17,355
1632	One ship, "	31,320
1634	One ship, "	29,562
1635	One ship, "	28,875

List of the wealthier citizens of New-Amsterdam, A.D. 1653.

THE following list is taken from a MS. volume of the City Records recently translated from the Dutch, at the request of the Corporation of New-York, by Rev. Mr. Westbrook, of Peekskill.

“ On Thursday, in the afternoon, being the 13th March, 1653, in session at Fort-Amsterdam :—

Arent van Hattem, Burgomaster,	} Schepens.
P. Leendersen Vandergrist,	
William Beekman,	
Allard Antony,	
M. Van Geele,	
Pieter Wolfersen,	

The Burgomaster Marten Krigier absent.

A List of the persons who shall provisionally contribute the following sums for the purpose of putting the city in a state of defence.

	guilders.		guilders.
His Mightiness Werckhoven,	200	Jacob Backer,	150
Johannes van Beeck,	200	Nicolas Boodt,	100
Johannes P. Verbrugge,	200	Isaack Foreest,	100
Johannes G. Verbrugge,	100	Abram Geenes,	100
Johannes de Peyster,	100	Jacob Steendam,	100
Cornelis van Steenwyck,	200	Antony Claesen,	50
Govert Lookermans	150	Jan Jansen, jr.	50
Olof Stevensen,	150	Borger Joris,	100
Jacob Schellinck,	200	Jan Vinje,	50
Pieter Prins,	100	Arent van Hattem,	100
Antony van Hardenbergh,	200	Marten Krigier,	100
Johannes Nefius,	100	Paulus Leendersen,	100
Gulyan Wys,	200	William Beekman,	100
Pieter Buijs,	100	Peter van Cowenhoven,	100
Adriaen and Johannes Keyser,	100	Maximilyen Geel,	100
Paulus Schrick,	100	Allard Antony,	100
Jacob G. Strycker,	100	Abram de la Nooy,	100
Francoijs Fijn,	100	Daniel Letschoet,	100
Matewis de Vos,	100	Philip Genaerdy,	50
Adriaen Blommaert,	100	Egbert van Borsum,	100
Evert Tesselaers Commisen,	200	Hendrick Kip.	50

TAX LIST OF NEW-AMSTERDAM, A.D. 1674.

THE extraordinary expenses attending the repair of the fortifications, and providing for the public defence, after the re-conquest of the city by the Dutch, in 1673, led to the imposition of a direct tax on those citizens whose estates were worth at least 1000 guilders. The following list was made out by a Board of six Assessors specially appointed for that purpose.

Adolph Petersen, estate valued at (guilders Holland value,)	1000	Dirck Wiggerse,	800
Andrias Jochems,	300	Dirck Sieken,	2000
Albert Bosch,	500	Dirck Claesse, Potter,	400
Abraham Carmar,	300	Aegidius Luyk,	5000
Allard Anthony,	1000	Egbert Wouterse,	300
Abraham Jansen, carpenter,	600	Evert Pieterse,	2000
Anthony Jansen Van Salè,	1000	Evert Wesselse Kuyper,	300
Adrian Vincent,	1000	Evert Duyckingh,	1600
Abel Hardenbroeck,	1000	Ephraim Harmans,	1000
Abraham Verplanck,	300	Elizabeth Dr. seus,	2000
Asser Leevy,	2500	Elizabeth Bedloo,	1000
Abram Lubbersen,	300	Ffrancois Rombouts,	5000
Anthony De,	1000	Ffrederick Philipse,	80,000
Anna Van Borssum,	2000	Ffrederick Arentse, turner,	400
Barent Coersen,	3500	Ffrederick Gisberts,	400
Balthasar Bayard,	1500	Guiliane Verplanck,	5000
Boele Roelofsen,	600	Guiliam de Honioud,	400
Barnadus Hasfalt,	300	Gabriel Minville,	10,000
Bay Rosevelt,	1000	Gerret Gulleever,	500
Balthasar de Haert's House,	2000	Mary Loockermans,	2000
Claes Lock,	600	Harmanus Burger & Co.,	400
Carsten Leursen,	5000	Hendrick Kip, sen.,	300
Cornelis Steenwyck,	50,000	Hendrick Bosch,	400
Cornelis van Ruyven,	18,000	Hendrick Wessels Smit,	1200
Cornelis Janse van Hooren,	500	Hendrick Gillesse, shoemaker,	300
Claes Bordingh,	1500	Hendrick Willemse Backer,	2000
Coenraed Ten Eyck,	5000	Hermanus van Borsum,	600
Christopher Hoogland,	5000	Hans Kieratede,	2000
Cornelis Chopper,	5000	Hendrick van Dyke,	300
Coel Van Brugges's Houses,	1000	Hartman Wessels,	300
Cornelis Van Borssum,	800	Harman Smeeman,	300
David Wessels,	800	Henry Bresier,	300
Cornelis Direksen, from west-veen,	1200	Johnannes Van Brugh,	1400
Cornelis Barentse Vander Cuyll,	400	Johannis de Peyster,	15 000
Dirck Smet,	2000	Jeronimus Ebbingh,	30,000
David Jochems,	1000	Jacob Kip,	4000
Daniel Hendricks,	500	Isaacq van Vlecq,	1500
Dirck Van Cleef,	1500	Jan Meleynderse Karmar,	300
		Isaack de Foreest,	1500
		Junan Blanck,	1600

Jacob de Naers,	5000	Laurens Holst,	300
Jan Hendrick Van Bommel,	1500	Luyckes Tienhoven,	600
Jacob Leumen,	300	Marten Kregier, sen.,	2000
Jeremias Jansen Hagenaer,	400	Marten Jansen Meyer,	500
Jacobus van de Water,	2500	Matheys de Haert,	12,000
Jan Dirckse Meyer,	600	Nicholas de Meyer,	50,000
Isacq Van Tricht, in his brother's house,	2500	Nicholas Bayard,	1000
Jacob Abrahamse, shoemaker,	2000	Nicholas du Puy,	600
Jan Van Breesteede,	500	Nicolas Jansen Backer,	700
Jonas Bartels,	3000	Olof Stevensen Van Cortland,	45,000
Jan Herberdingh,	2000	Peter Jacobs Marius,	5000
Jacob Teuniss Key,	8000	Peter Nys,	500
Jan Spiegelaer,	500	Paulus Richard,	5000
Jan Jansen, carpenter,	300	Peter de Riemer,	800
John Lawrence,	40,000	Paulus Turcq,	300
James Matheus,	1000	Pieter Van de Water,	400
Jan Reay, pipemaker,	300	Pieter Jansen Mesier,	300
Jan Coely Smet,	1200	Philip Johns,	600
Jan Schakerley,	1400	Reynier Willemse Backer,	5000
Jan Joosten, Banquier,	2500	Stephanus Van Cortland,	5000
*Jacob Leyslaer,	15,000	Simon Jantz Romeyn,	1200
Jan Vigne,	1000	Sibout Claess,	500
Jacob Varrevanger,	8000	S'ouwert Olp heresse,	600
Laurens Jansen Smet,	300	Thomas Leurs,	6000
Luycas Andries, Banquier,	1500	Thomas Louwerss Backer,	1000
Laurens Van de Spiegel,	6000	Wilhelm Beeckman,	3000
Lammert Huybertse Moll,	300	Wander Wessels,	600
		Willem Van der Schueven,	300

The foregoing list was copied from the Colonial Records, and published in Moulton's sketch of New-Orange, (as the city was called on its re-conquest by the Dutch,) with some interesting details relating to that period.

* This remarkable man took the lead in a popular movement in 1688, when he assumed the government. He was afterwards tried on a charge of high treason and executed. His attainder was reversed at a later period by act of Parliament, and his estates restored to his family.—Ed.

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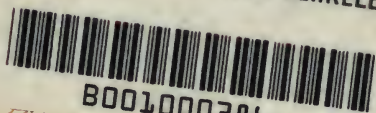
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